

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOMENICI NEGOTIATES LAB FUNDING PLAN THAT SHOULD ENSURE "CONTINUITY OF EMPLOYMENT"

\$70 Million in Proposed Supplemental Funding Brightens Outlook

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, today reported that he has successfully negotiated a plan to provide \$70 million in new and necessary funding for Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories this year.

Domenici, working with Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, said his negotiations have yielded sufficient new funding commitments in the current fiscal year and in FY2001 that potential furloughs or layoffs at Sandia or Los Alamos national laboratories in New Mexico should be averted.

"The Clinton administration and the Department of Energy requested absolutely nothing for Sandia and Los Alamos. I pleased that we now have a plan that will take care of the most pressing needs at our labs," Domenici said. "I'm quite sure that if we can get this supplemental funding signed into law soon that it will help ensure the continuity of employment at the labs."

Out of the \$143 million to be sought for DOE activities, Domenici has negotiated for \$70 million directly related to the national laboratories in New Mexico. These include *(President Clinton's supplemental appropriations requests, or non-requests, are noted in parentheses)* :

- C \$20 million to keep pit production on schedule at Los Alamos National Laboratory (\$0 in request);
- C \$17 million for support of critical personnel and to avoid lay-offs at Sandia National Laboratories (\$0 in request);
- C \$13 million for upgrades to the Transportation Safeguards Division based in Albuquerque to address its "marginal" security rating (\$0 in the request); and,
- C \$20 million to begin implementation of cyber security upgrades at the most critical areas of the three weapons laboratories (\$0 in request).

Action on the lab funding will begin Tuesday as the Senate Appropriations Committee, on which Domenici serves, addresses FY2000 supplemental appropriations. The committee plans to add

emergency defense funding—including this New Mexico-related money—to the FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill, which is up for consideration on Tuesday.

Domenici indicated that he will begin work on the FY2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill later this month. On Thursday, his subcommittee was allocated nearly \$22.5 billion, a \$1.27 billion increase, to fund the Department of Energy, the national laboratories and federal water projects next year.